

Statutory Investigative Authority (Applicable to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee pursuant to G.S. 120-36.15)

[Statutes summarized]

§ 120-19. State officers, etc., upon request, to furnish data and information to legislative committees or commissions.

All officers, agents, agencies and departments of the State are required to give to any committee of either house upon request, all information and all data within their possession, or ascertainable from their records. (Certain tax information excluded by G.S. 105-259)

§ 120-19.1. Hearings; examination of witnesses; counsel.

Committees of either the House or Senate of the General Assembly of North Carolina may hold separate or joint hearings, call witnesses, and compel testimony relevant to any bill, resolution or other matter properly before the committee. Witnesses may be examined under oath; if so, then the proceedings must be taken and transcribed verbatim. Witnesses may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their rights.

§ 120-19.2. Invitations to witnesses; when hearings and examinations held; subpoenas.

Committees of the General Assembly may invite witnesses to appear and testify concerning pending legislation or other matters properly before the committee and may require the attendance of witnesses by subpoena. The committee may submit questions in writing to the witness in advance of his appearance. Witnesses may be permitted, in the discretion of the committee, to submit written, sworn statements in addition to or in lieu of sworn oral testimony before the committee. The form of subpoena shall generally follow the practice in the General Court of Justice in North Carolina.

§ 120-19.3. Witness fees and expenses.

Witnesses subpoenaed to testify before a committee of either house of the General Assembly or a joint committee of the General Assembly shall be entitled to the same fees and expenses as are allowable for witnesses in criminal proceedings in the superior court division of the General Court of Justice.

§ 120-19.4. Failure to respond to subpoena or refusal to testify punishable as contempt.

Any person who without good cause fails to obey a subpoena which was served upon him, or, fails or refuses to testify shall be deemed to be in contempt of the committee and shall be punished as in the case of a civil contempt. Any person whose action in the immediate presence of the committee directly tends to disrupt its proceedings may also be punished as in the case of a civil contempt.